UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/973
S/1999/598
21 May 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 20 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 May 1999, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plûmer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-15212 (E) 250599

ANNEX

Letter dated 20 May 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer
to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 30 April and 3, 7, 10 and 11 May 1999 (A/53/933-S/1999/499, A/53/934-S/1999/502, A/53/949-S/1999/532, A/53/953-S/1999/537 and A/53/956-S/1999/545, respectively), addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic".

I would like to recall that similar unfounded charges on so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 15 April 1999 (A/53/914-S/1999/440, annex). I would like to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State over which the usurper regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

The Greek Cypriot administration keeps making the above-mentioned allegations in order to divert attention from its ongoing policy of escalation on the island. Military build-up in South Cyprus has reached unprecedented levels. According to estimated military expenditures, in 1999 the Greek Cypriot administration will spend 5.8 per cent of the gross domestic product on armaments. This figure is twice as large as the average for the 15 members of the European Union (Greek Cypriot daily Fileleftheros of 9-10 May 1999).

Furthermore, it has been observed that acts of provocation by Greek Cypriot National Guard soldiers along the borders have increased sharply over recent months. At various locations, Greek Cypriot soldiers practically on a daily basis have been pointing weapons and throwing stones at Turkish Cypriot sentries, as well as directing verbal attacks and provocations. Turkish Cypriot military personnel have been monitoring the situation with calmness, patience and prudence. Our authorities have lodged necessary protests with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, in the hope that immediate effective measures will be taken to stop such provocative actions by the Greek Cypriot side.

The continuing militarization campaign by the Greek Cypriot side, as well as the acts of provocation and hostility, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus. My Government expects that the international community will strongly urge the Greek Cypriot leadership to abandon its provocative policies that are not conducive to reducing tension and promoting progress towards reconciliation between the two States.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus